THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH - LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION - May 2009

POETRY - LSD 2206

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 06. 06. 2009 TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

ANSWER QUESTION 01 AND ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM PART B.

Part A

1) **Identify two (02) of the following passages and comment on their significance to the text from which they are taken.**

i) *Once out of nature I shall never take*
My bodily form from any natural thing,
But such a form as Grecian goldsmiths make
Of hammered gold and gold enamelling
To keep a drowsy Emperor awake;
Or set upon a golden bough to sing
To lords and ladies of Byzantium
Of what is past, or passing, or to come

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA LIBRARY

ii) *A rat crept softly through the vegetation*
Dragging its slimy belly on the bank
While I was fishing in the dull canal
On a winter evening round behind the gashouse
Musing upon the king my brother's wreck
And on the king my father's death before him.

iii) Six days of the week it soils
With its sickening poison –
Just for paying a few bills!
That's out of proportion.

iv) *"The boy's first outcry was a rueful laugh,*
As he swung toward them holding up the hand,
Half in appeal, but half as if to keep
The life from spilling. Then the boy saw all
Since he was old enough to know, big boy
Doing a man's work, though a child at heart –
He saw all spoiled."

(40 marks)

Part B

2. The political climate of the time he was writing in influenced much of Yeats' poetry. Do you agree with this statement? In your discussion, illustrate your answer with examples from at least 03 of Yeats' poems.

3. What are the apparent effects of spiritual degeneration among the Waste Landers? Explain with examples from the poem.

4. Most of Larkin's poems create a dialogue between opposing attitudes. Use two poems to explain this statement.

5. "Frost's poetry, though dealing with rural themes which are seemingly less complex and sophisticated, in truth reflect dark themes with subtle irony." Do you agree? Discuss with reference to Frost's poems you have studied

(60 marks)